

## **Health Care Access**

Having regular access to quality health care is crucial in preserving a person's overall good health and to detect and control potentially serious health problems. It is difficult to acquire a regular source of ongoing health care without adequate health insurance. Therefore, those who lack health insurance face increased risks of morbidity and mortality from chronic disease. However, the number of Americans without health insurance is continually rising. The BRFSS asked the following questions to address the status of health care access for the people of South Carolina.

### ***No Health Care Coverage***

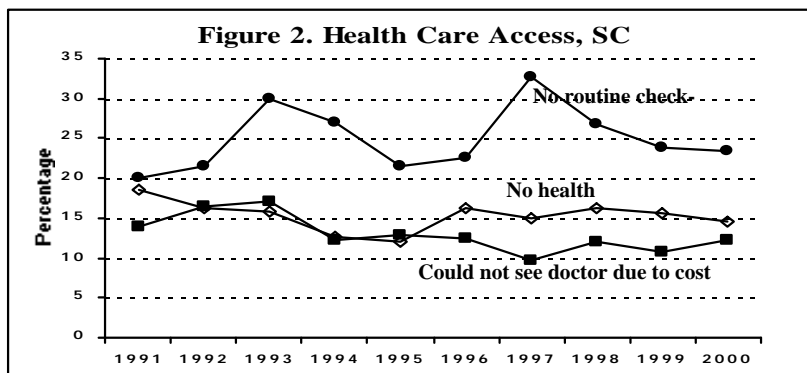
BRFSS data indicated that 14.5 percent of South Carolinians had no medical insurance, a rate that was greater than the national median (11.8 percent). The prevalence rate of uninsured blacks was almost twice that of whites, and at 22 percent, black men had the highest rate without health insurance of the four race-gender groups. Young adults between 18 and 34 years of age were also among the most likely to be uninsured. BRFSS data showed that those with higher education levels and family incomes were more likely to have health insurance. Over the past 10 years, the overall percentage of uninsured people in South Carolina decreased from 19 percent in 1991 to 15 percent in 2000.

### ***Could Not See Doctor in the Past 12 Months Because of Cost***

According to the BRFSS, the percentage of South Carolina's adults who were unable to see a doctor because of the expense was 12.3 percent, higher than that of the national median of 9.9 percent. Women and blacks were more likely to claim that cost prevented them from seeing a doctor, and black women, at 21.1 percent, had the highest prevalence among the four race-gender groups. Younger people, and those with lower education or incomes, also reported a higher prevalence of being unable to see a doctor because of cost than other groups. However, the overall trend of people reporting that they did not see a doctor due to cost has dropped from 14 percent in 1991 to 12.3 percent in 2000.

### ***No Routine Health Checkup in the Past 12 Months***

When the BRFSS asked South Carolinians how long it had been since they last visited a doctor for a routine check-up, 23 percent said they had not had a routine check-up within the previous year, a rate lower than the national median of 27.8 percent. Men were much less likely to have routine check-ups than women, and whites were less likely to have annual check-ups than blacks. Moreover, the overall prevalence of people who had not submitted to routine check-ups annually has increased over the past 10 years, from 20 percent in 1991 to 23 percent in 2000.

**Healthy People 2010 Objective**

Increase the proportion of persons with health insurance to 100% (SC, 2000=85.5%)

**Table 2. Health Care Access, 2000**

	No Health Coverage			No routine Check-up in the Past Year			Could Not See a Doctor in the Past Year Due to Cost		
	%	95% CI		%	95% CI		%	95% CI	
<b>Overall</b>	14.5	13.1	15.8	23.3	21.5	25.0	12.3	11.1	13.4
<b>Sex</b>									
Male	14.5	12.2	16.7	31.5	28.6	34.4	7.7	6.1	9.3
Female	14.5	12.6	16.3	15.8	13.9	17.7	16.5	14.6	18.3
<b>Race</b>									
White	11.9	10.4	13.4	25.4	23.3	27.4	10.7	9.4	12.1
Black	21.2	17.8	24.7	16.1	12.8	19.4	16.2	13.1	19.3
<b>Race and Sex</b>									
White Male	12.4	10.1	14.7	33.6	30.2	36.9	7.0	5.3	8.7
White Female	11.5	9.5	13.5	17.5	15.2	19.8	14.3	12.3	16.3
Black Male	22.0	15.9	28.0	23.4	17.2	29.6	9.7	5.5	13.9
Black Female	20.6	16.6	24.7	10.7	7.4	13.9	21.1	16.9	25.4
<b>Age</b>									
18-24	19.9	15.0	24.8	26.9	21.0	32.7	15.5	11.2	19.8
25-34	20.3	16.5	24.0	26.8	22.7	30.9	14.0	11.0	17.1
35-44	16.5	13.1	19.9	29.7	25.7	33.7	13.1	10.3	15.9
45-54	13.4	10.4	16.5	24.0	20.1	27.8	14.1	11.0	17.1
55-64	14.1	10.5	17.8	19.5	15.3	23.7	10.3	7.2	13.4
65 +	2.3	0.8	3.9	10.6	7.5	13.7	5.9	3.8	8.1
<b>Education</b>									
<High School	22.1	17.5	26.6	24.5	19.2	29.7	19.5	15.4	23.6
HS graduate	20.8	18.0	23.6	23.4	20.5	26.3	15.0	12.6	17.4
Some College	9.9	7.2	12.6	22.3	18.7	25.8	10.7	8.3	13.0
College graduate	6.5	4.8	8.2	23.5	20.4	26.5	6.6	4.9	8.4
<b>House Hold Income</b>									
<\$25,000	28.7	25.0	32.3	26.2	22.5	29.8	23.6	20.3	26.8
\$25,000-\$49,999	10.3	8.3	12.3	24.0	21.0	26.9	10.7	8.6	12.8
\$50,000-\$74,999	4.0	2.1	6.0	22.3	17.9	26.7	4.3	2.4	6.3
\$75,000+	4.3	2.1	6.4	21.9	17.3	26.4	2.5	0.8	4.2
<b>Employment</b>									
Employed	14.2	12.4	15.9	26.6	24.3	28.8	10.6	9.1	12.1
Unemployed	44.7	34.0	55.5	28.7	18.0	39.3	35.4	25.7	45.2
Others	9.3	7.2	11.4	14.8	12.1	17.5	10.0	7.9	12.2
Unable to work	18.7	11.6	25.7	19.8	11.9	27.7	25.6	17.9	33.4